ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

EDWARDSVILLE, ALABAMA.

1899

Cleburne Baptist Association.

FIRST ANNUAL SESSION.

1899
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Directory.

MODERATOR, - - -	T. J. BURTON.
VICE MODERATOR, - -	V. M. THACKERSON.
CLERK AND TREASURER, - -	HUGH D. MERRILL.
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,	J. B. MERRILL.

—◆—

Executive Board.

Ai—T. A. Weathers.
Bethlehem—W. D. Hood.
Bethsaida—J. W. Walker.
Bethany—J. T. Thrower.
Beulah—N. R. Williamson.
Camp Creek—G. W. Roberts.
Cherry Grove—V. M. Thackerson.
Concord—A. M. Turner.
Edwardsville—A. A. Hurst.
Fruithurst—H. T. Williamson.
Harmony Grove—J. W. Baber.
Heflin—J. C. Bean.
Hopewell—D. M. Kaylor.
Howles Grove—Geo. Watson.
Liberty—H. Allen.
Liberty Hill—W. T. Pesnell.
Pine Grove—J. A. Brown.
Pilgrims Rest—W. H. George.
Shoal Creek—F. M. Coleman.
Union Grove—W. J. Newborn.

—◆—

Standing Committees.

CHAIRMEN OF.

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS, - -	J. B. Merrill.
STATE MISSIONS, - - -	J. M. Garrett.
HOME MISSIONS, - - -	H. Allen.
FOREIGN MISSIONS, - - -	J. C. Midyett.
SUNDAY SCHOOL AND COLPORTAGE, -	A. A. Hurst.
INDIGENT MINISTERS, - -	A. M. Turner.
ORPHANS' HOME, - - -	W. U. Almon.
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, - -	V. M. Thackerson.
RELIGIOUS LITERATURE, - - -	E. G. Barker.
PASTORATES, - - -	J. B. Merrill.
PRAYER MEETINGS, - - -	J. C. Garner.
CHRISTIAN HOMES, - - -	J. C. Bean.
TEMPERANCE, - - - -	J. F. Morgan.
CHURCH BUILDING, - - -	J. A. Brown.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

J. C. Midyett, J. C. Bean, R. H. Roberts, J. A. Brown, A. M. Turner.

—◆—

Next Session at Heflin, Friday, September 21, 1900.

Constitution of Cleburne Association.

—♦—

PREAMBLE.

Recognizing the magnitude of the work committed to us by our Lord, and realizing the value of co-operation and the power in unity of effort, we, the Baptist Churches in, and adjacent to, Cleburne county, Alabama, do hereby enter into an active union and agree to the following:

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I. NAME—This body shall be known as the Cleburne Association of Baptist Churches.

ART. II. PURPOSE—The purpose of this body shall be to more thoroughly unite the Baptist Churches of this section in mutual watch-care, spiritual helpfulness, missionary effort and Christian education.

ART. III. MEMBERSHIP—Any regular Missionary Baptist Church in this territory shall be eligible to membership in this union.

ART. IV. REPRESENTATION—Each church in this Association shall be entitled to two messengers and one additional for each twenty-five members she may have over twenty-five.

ART. V. MEETINGS—This body shall have regular annual sessions, beginning on Friday, 10 a. m., before the fourth Sunday in September, and lasting three days. These meetings shall be held at the places chosen at the previous annual meeting, or arranged for by the Executive Board.

ART. VI. OFFICERS—SEC. 1.—The officers of this Association shall be Moderator, Vice Moderator, Corresponding Secretary, Clerk, and Treasurer, who shall be elected annually by private ballot: Provided, that when there is but one nominee, the vote may be taken by acclamation.

SEC. 2.—The duties of these officers shall be such as deliberative bodies usually assign to such officers, and as the body may assign.

ART. VII. EXECUTIVE BOARD—SEC. 1.—This body shall have an Executive Board, consisting of its officers and one representative from each church in its membership, said member to be nominated by the church and named in her letter to the body.

SEC. 2.—This board shall be renewed annually, and shall be entrusted with the execution of the work of the Association during the interim between its meetings.

SEC. 3.—This board shall hold quarterly meetings in which three officers and four representatives from churches shall constitute a quorum

for the transaction of business. A less number may adjourn from time to time until a quorum be had.

SEC. 4.—The officers of the association shall be the officers of the board. and the corresponding secretary shall be ex-officio superintendent of missions.

SEC. 5.—The board shall present a full written report of its work for the year, to the next annual session of this body, and shall include therein the reports of the corresponding secretary and treasurer.

ART. VIII. NEW CHURCHES—Churches wishing membership in this body shall send accredited messengers to its annual meeting bearing a petitionary letter, accompanied by her articles of faith and information as to location, pastor, membership, property, missionary, educational and benevolent work for the past year.

ART. IX. DISMISSION—At any regular meeting of this body any church in good standing, upon application, may have a letter of dismission from this body: Provided, said application be made in writing, by authority of said church in conference, and when such letter shall have been granted, the jurisdiction of this body over such church shall cease.

ART. X. POWER—This body shall be co-operative and advisory only, and shall have no ecclesiastical power over the churches; but, should any church become disorderly in conduct, irregular in practice, or unsound in doctrine, this body may drop such church from its roll of members, and refuse to fellowship her.

ART. XI. REPORTS—Each church in this Association is requested to send up to each annual meeting of the body, letters showing name, location, pastor and clerk, with the post offices, number, names and post office of all ordained ministers holding membership with church, character and value of church property, day of meeting, number and manner of increase and decrease of membership, Sunday school statistics, prayer meeting time, expenditures for incidental expenses, house building and repairs, pastor's support, missions, religious education, and benevolence, with such other matter as may be of use in compiling denominational statistics.

ART. XII. MINUTES—This Association shall have printed, as soon as practicable after adjournment of each annual session, minutes of its work and statistical tables sufficient to supply churches constituting it, and said minutes shall be considered the report of the messengers to the churches sending them.

ART. XIII. CONTRIBUTIONS—Each church holding membership in this body shall, as far as practicable, do her missionary, benevolent and educational work through the channels of this body, and shall, as far as she may be reasonably able, contribute regularly toward the support of the enterprises fostered and helped by this body, sending

contributions to the annual meeting or the executive board in the interim.

ART. XIV. STANDING COMMITTEES—At each annual meeting the presiding officer of this Association shall appoint chairmen of the following named committees, whose business shall be to collect data for reports on their respective subject at the next annual meeting; viz, Associational missions, State missions, Home missions, Foreign missions, Sunday school and colportage work, Indigent ministers, Orphans' Home, Christian education, Religious literature, Pastorates, Prayer meetings, Christian Homes, Temperance, Church building.

ART. XV. ANNUAL SERMONS—At each annual meeting of this body three ministers with alternates shall be appointed, who shall at the next annual meeting preach an introductory, a doctrinal, and a missionary sermon.

ART. XVI. AMENDMENTS—Any amendment to this constitution shall be presented in writing, and lay over till the next annual meeting and be carried by two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

By-Laws.

In order to more systematically and successfully do its work, this body adopts the following:

BY-LAWS.

1. Each sitting of this body shall begin with scripture reading and prayer and shall end with prayer.

2. Its deliberations shall be subject to the rules laid down in "Mell's Manual of Parliamentary Practice."

3. The Moderator shall make all appointments unless otherwise ordered by the body.

4. Only the appellation of "brother" shall be used by members of this body one to another.

5. When new churches are received into this union the presiding officer shall extend the hand of fellowship to the messengers.

6. The officers elected at one annual meeting shall hold over until their places are filled at the next annual meeting.

7. The Moderator, as soon as practicable after taking his seat, shall appoint two or more committeemen to act with each of the standing chairmen named in Article XIV. of the Constitution. Also a committee of three or more on Finances, Auditing, Devotional exercises and preaching, place, and preachers for next annual session and on Resolutions.

8. At the first sitting of each annual meeting, the hours for meeting and adjourning shall be fixed by vote of the body.

9. The Constitution, By-Laws, rules and articles of faith shall be read after the devotional exercises at the afternoon session of the first day of each annual meeting.

10. The Clerk shall preserve and turn over to his successor in office each year, a file of the minutes of this body. He shall also, as soon as the minutes are issued, each year, send one copy to each of the following: Statistical Secretary of Southern Baptist Convention, Statistical Secretary of the State Convention, and the fire proof library of Colgate University, N. Y.

11. Any amendment to these by-laws shall be presented in writing and carried by a majority vote of those present and voting.

Confession of Faith.

In order to promote greater harmony of feeling and a more perfect union of effort, We, the churches composing the Cleburne Association, subscribe to the following epitome of Scripture doctrine as our

CONFESSION OF FAITH.

We believe in the full and complete inspiration of the Bible; the eternal fatherhood of God; the absolute divinity of Jesus Christ; the real personality of the Holy Spirit; the total depravity of all men; and the just and eternal condemnation of all unbelievers.

We believe in salvation by grace alone, regeneration by the Holy Spirit as its foundation, repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ as its medium, and justification, assurance and eternal preservation as its results.

We believe in sanctification only in the imputed righteousness of Christ and that such sanctification is present and complete.

We believe in the election of grace, and that the preaching of the gospel is God's means of saving the elect.

We believe in the second coming of Christ, when the saints shall be freed from sin, and the wicked shall be punished, and that the preaching of the gospel will hasten his coming.

We believe the first day of the week is the Christian Sabbath, and that it should be religiously observed, for God's honor, the world's good and the saints' spiritual enjoyment.

We believe that Jesus Christ established his church during His public ministry, and that from then until now there have been in the world churches modeled after that pattern; that they are independent, self-governing bodies of baptized believers, associated in covenant under the law of Christ for the praise of God, the preaching of the gospel, the maintenance of the ordinances and the edification of the saints. That their scriptural officers are pastors and deacons who are divinely called and publicly set apart to their special works.

We believe that baptism is a positive ordinance of Jesus Christ committed to scriptural churches, to be performed by authorized administrators in the name of the Holy Trinity; that it consists in an entire immersion in water, of a believer to typify the death and resurrection of Christ, and the death to sin and resurrection to a new life of the one baptized; that it is a prerequisite to church membership and that church membership is a prerequisite to the Lord's Supper, an ordinance of

Christ in which, by the use of unleavened bread, and the pure juice of grapes we call to remembrance this death of our risen Lord.

We believe that Christians should obey the laws of their country, but we also believe in the eternal divorcement of church and state, and in an untrammeled liberty of conscience.

We believe in an aggressive publication of the gospel, a life of unselfish consecration and of exemplary piety among those claiming to be the children of God.

Order of Business.

The business shall be conducted after the following order, unless otherwise ordered by vote of the body, and such change shall apply only to the annual meeting when adopted. unless rendered permanent by amendment of the by-laws of which this order of business is a part:

1. Devotional exercises, by Moderator or an appointee.

2. Reading letters from churches and enrolling messengers.

3. Reading petitionary letters and receiving new churches.

4. Election of officers for ensuing year.

5. Appointment of committees for present meeting.

6. Enrollment of representatives, corresponding messengers, and visitors.

7. Unfinished business and business of reference.

8. Report of standing committees.

9. Report of executive board, including reports of corresponding secretary and treasurer.

10. Report of committees in order named: Auditing committee, Finance committee, committee on place and preachers for next annual session.

11. Special committee's report.

12. Miscellaneous and new business.

13. Appointment of messengers, to Southern Baptist Convention, State convention, and Corresponding associations.

14. Report of committee on resolutions.

15. Adjournment, with farewell and benediction.

Proceedings.

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EDWARDSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH,

EDWARDSVILLE, Ala., Oct. 27, 1899.

Pursuant to a call issued on the 26th day of August by a convention of 22 Baptist churches of Cleburne county, which had assembled to consider the propriety of organizing a new Association, twenty Baptist churches, by their delegates, bearing letters of dismission from their respective Associations, assembled at the Edwardsville Baptist Church today, at 11 a. m., for the purpose of organizing a new Association of the Baptist churches of Cleburne county. The meeting was called to order by J. B. Merrill, and, after the devotional exercises, Rev. A. S. Brannon preached the introductory sermon. Text: Psalms, 35:28.

FIRST DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

1. The convention convened at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon. J. B. Merrill delivered welcome address and stated object of meeting.

2. T. J. Burton was placed in nomination for temporary moderator and Hugh D. Merrill for temporary clerk, both of whom were elected by acclamation, and the meeting declared temporarily organized.

3. The convention was led in prayer by Rev. T. A. Higdon.

4. Call for letters from churches. J. B. Merrill and Rev. J. C. Midyett appointed to read same. Churches and delegates enrolled as appears at the end of this Journal.

5. On motion, J. B. Merrill, A. M. Turner, and E. G. Barker appointed to draft constitution and by-laws.

6. A number of visiting brethren were welcomed to seats by convention. Rev. T. A. Higdon, of Harmony Association, Rev. A. S. Brannon, East Liberty, A. J. Preston, Montgomery, Ala., responded.

7. J. B. Merrill submitted report of committee on constitution and by-laws. With two amendments to constitution report was adopted. (See constitution, by-laws, confession of faith and order of business, preceding proceedings.)

8. The body permanently organized as the Cleburne Baptist Association, with temporary officers as permanent officers.

9. The following committees were announced by the Moderator:

ON FINANCE—J. T. Jacobs, A. M. Turner, W. B. Merrill.

ON CORRESPONDENCE—J. C. Midyett, J. W. Thrower, V. M. Thackerson.

ON PREACHING—A. M. Turner, J. A. J. Alewine, I. E. Hubbard, with delegates from Edwardsville church.

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS—J. B. Merrill, W. T. Pritchard, G. W. Roberts

STATE MISSIONS—J. M. Garrett, B. A. Cheatwood, J. C. Garner.

HOME MISSIONS—A. F. Allen, J. M. Garret. W. D. Hood.

FOREIGN MISSIONS—J. C. Midyett, P. T. Pritchard, J. C. Garner.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND COLPORTAGE—J. C. Midyett, W. U. Almon. A. M. Turner.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS—J. C. Midyett, I. E. Hubbard, A. F. Allen.

LITERATURE—W. U. Almon, N. R. Williamson, J. T. Thrower.

READING BIBLE—J. C. Garner, E. P. Pesnell, C. A. White.

TEMPERANCE—J. M. Garrett, B. A. Cheatwood, M. W. Dodd.

DECEASED MINISTERS—J. M. Garrett, A. M. Turner, B. A. Cheatwood.

ORPHANS' HOME—A. A. Hurst, J. F. Johnson, J. W. Walker.

ON PLACE AND PREACHING—J. B. Merrill, M. W. Dodd, I. E. Hubbard, G. W. Roberts, J. T. Thrower, W. D. Hood.

10. Adjourned until 7 o'clock in the evening, when A. J. Preston, A. S. Brannon, and J. C. Midyett discussed the subject of missions.

SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION.

11. The Association reassembled at 9 o'clock a. m., and was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Rev. A. E. Burns.

12. Visitors were welcomed to seats in the Association. A. E. Burns responded.

13. J. C. Midyett read the following report from the committee on

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Your committee to whom was committed the question of Foreign Missions, would report as follows:

There is but one kind of Missions—World Missions. Our Lord said, "Go ye into all the world, preach the gospel to every creature," but for convenience we divide the work into Associational, State, Home and Foreign. Foreign Missions is that part of our work which contemplates the carrying of the gospel to the peoples of other countries and other languages than our own. The Southern Baptists have Missions in Italy, Brazil, Mexico, Africa, China, and Japan. Some of our Missions were planted in China as early as 1845, and some in Japan as late as 1889.

In all these fields we have 100 churches and 140 out-stations where the gospel is preached, 82 missionaries from this country, 128 native workers on these fields, and they had a net gain of 712 to the churches last year, with a present membership of 5347, 2446 Sunday school pupils, 57 houses of worship, 43 schools and 1165 pupils in them. These churches contributed last year to religious work $7110, or an average of $1.32 per member. The Foreign Mission Board expended last year on all these fields nearly $100,000. Of this amount Alabama gave nearly six thousand, and the Alabama churches af the East Harmony Association gave $24.07, or an average of 2 1-2 cents per member, and the Cedar Creek Association, with a membership of 778, gave $33.99, or

an average of 4 1-2 cents per member, so that the churches represented here gave last year for the preaching of the gospel to a billion of heathen an average of 3 1-3 cents per member. Your committee thinks that this was not due to a lack of interest in the great work, but to a lack of information on the subject. We therefore recommend:

1. That the Executive Board of this Association be instructed to adopt some measures for circulating among the membership of the churches composing this body, The Foreign Mission Journal and such tracts as will enable our people to become informed on this momentous question.

2. That we urge the pastors of our churches and the other preachers in the bounds of this Association, to secure and study such books and papers as will qualify them to lead the people to a higher conception of the great commission of our Lord, "Go teach all nations."

3. That we endeavor to secure from our churches this year for this work, an average of ten cents per member.

Respectfully submitted,

J. C. MIDYETT,
P. T. PRITCHARD,
J. C. GARNER,
V. M. THACKERSON, } Com.

14. On motion, the discussion of report on foreign missions was postponed till the reports of other committees on missions were read, when all would be discussed.

15. J. M. Garrett read the following report from the committee on

STATE MISSIONS.

We, your committee on State Missions, desire to offer the following report:

We find that the cause of Christ has been greatly advanced by the Mission work, but we feel that a greater work might be done, if the churches would do their duty, and especially the pastors. We feel that they are, to a great extent, the cause of the churches being so neglectful of the great command to go and preach the gospel. We would urge that this association make a greater effort next year to do more for the promotion of the cause of Christ than has ever been done by the churches composing it. There is a very serious question to be solved, Why so many of our brethren do nothing for Missions? We feel that the prime cause is the lack of system. The true ground for all missionary work is the command of our Lord and the lost condition of men without the gospel. But we need to come down to the granite rock of duty and of obedience to our Lord. "Why call ye me Lord and do not these things which I say?" Obedience to Christ is the rock on which this work rests. We recommend that the command of the Lord be carried out by this Association as far as possible.

J. M. GARRETT,
B. A. CHEATWOOD, } Com.
J. C. GARNER,

The report was received and went over under motion. (See item 14.)

16. A. F. Allen read the following report on

HOME MISSIONS.

We, your committee on Home Missions, would respectfully submit the following report:

We are aware that on former occasions a great deal has been said and written in regard to this important subject, and yet there may be a great deal more written and said. In our meditations upon this subject, the question naturally suggests itself as to what we mean by "Home Missions." The word, "mission," is derived from the Latin word, "mitto," and means, "to send," and in its Bible sense, as we understand it, means to send the gospel; hence a missionary is one sent to preach, proclaim or publish the glad tidings. Christ intended that we should preach the gospel to the inhabitants of the remote corners of the earth, but first it was to be preached to his own people at home, beginning at Jerusalem, after which it was to be preached to the Gentiles. Home Missions, then, means the preaching of the gospel in our own country—in each state composing this grand republic, also the island of Cuba, Mexico, and Indian Territory. We believe that there is need of much work at home, and our first duty is to do this needed work, and then go into foreign fields. Christ first offered salvation to his own people, so should we first make efforts to save our own people. We do not mean that the heathen should not have the gospel, but let us look first to the wants of our own people.

A. F. ALLEN,
W. D. HOOD,
J. M. GARRETT, } Com.

The report was received.

17. E. P. Pesnell read the following report on

READING BIBLE.

Your committee on Reading Bible offer the following report:

Christ said, "Search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life and they are they that testify of me." We recommend a prayerful study of the scripture, as it is the word of God and the only true rule of faith and practice. We should read it and teach it by precept and example in our homes and in the Sunday schools and everywhere, as it reveals God's precious truths.

J. C. GARNER,
E. P. PESNELL,
C. A. WHITE, } Com.

The report was adopted.

18. J. B. Merrill was appointed as a delegate from this Association to the Southern Baptist Convention, which meets at Hot Springs, Ark. J. C. Midyett was elected alternate.

19. The following were elected delegates to Alabama State Baptist Convention: J. B. Merrill, A. A. Hurst, V. M. Thackerson, G. W. Roberts, J. C. Garner. The delegates were given power to select their own alternates.

20. J. C. Midyett read the following report from the committee on

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND COLPORTAGE WORK.

Your committee, to whom was committed the question of Sunday School and Colportage work, would report as follows:

1. DEFINITIONS—Sunday School means, The Lord's people in the Lord's house on the Lord's day, learning and teaching the Lord's word in obedience to the Lord's command. Colportage work means the circulation of books and tracts so as to help in the understanding of the Bible, to quicken spiritual life, systematize Christian work and help the pastors and churches in holding up the truth.

2. WHAT IT MEANS—Stronger Christians, more active churches, more successful pastors, better informed Christian homes, earlier and more frequent conversion among the children, and a hastening of the time of our Lord's coming.

Since such great results depend upon this work, we your committee, recommend,

1. That the executive board make the best possible arrangements with the Sunday school board of the Southern Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Publication Society for Bibles, books and tracts for distribution in our field.

2. That our missionary be required to give especial attention to Sunday school and colportage work, carrying such colportage supplies as the board may be able to furnish him, and that our churches help on this blessed work by co-operation, prayers, and contributions.

Respectfully submitted,

J. C. MIDYETT,
A. M. TURNER,
W. U. ALMON, } Com.

21. On motion, this Association decided to correspond with the following Associations: Cedar Creek, Calhoun, Harmony, Polk County, Carrollton, Cherokee, Arbacoochee, Bethlehem.

Any member of this Association, who attends any of the above Associations, is authorized by this Association to represent it as a correspondent.

22. Preaching at 11 a. m. by Rev. J. C. Midyett. Text: Eph. 2:10.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

23. Devotional exercises conducted by Rev. B. A. Cheatwood.

24. J. M. Garrett read the following report from the committee on

TEMPERANCE.

While this subject has been prominent before the public mind for years, and has engaged the best thoughts of the wise and good, it seems that our people ought to be thoroughly acquainted with the extent of its evils and the best methods of dealing with them, and while our reports and speeches have not accomplished what we desire, yet none will deny that there has been and will be great good effected by the agitation of the question. Therefore, we present the following facts and make the following suggestions for your consideration:

Your committee would call attention to the magnitude of the whisky traffic. The statistics of last year (1898) show that there are 241,000

saloons in the United States and they employed 1,205,000 men to retail from these saloons. The saloons in New York City, if placed side by side, would extend in unbroken front for 73 miles. There is a canal of liquor flowing through this country annually, 50 miles in length, 40 feet wide and 10 feet deep, with 60,000 men found dead in it every year, and not less than 200,000 women and children are destroyed for time, if not for eternity, by this great evil. "Intemperance is the mother of crime." It is claimed that it is the direct cause of not less than 75 per cent. of the immoral and unscriptural divorces which our courts grant at almost every sitting. Intemperance not only leads to crime, but is a crime.

The late Mr. Gladstone said that intemperance is a greater curse than famine, pestilence and war combined. Hon. Carroll Wright, U. S. Commissioner of Labor, asserts that for every dollar derived by the government for the liquor traffic, $21.00 come out of the pockets of the laboring man. The cost to this country every year by reason of idleness, insanity, sickness and crime, due to drink, is not less than $2,000,000,000. Also we find in addition to this that the cost of the fiery beverage which is annually consumed by the American people is $1,200,000,000, making the average cost to our country $3,200,000,000, while we only expend for all missionary work at home and abroad, for the support of all church work, and all public education, the small sum of $250,000,000 annually. Thus we see that the American people spend more for the support of this evil in one year than we expend for religious purposes in twelve years. Think of it, brethren! When one dollar is expended to save and elevate a soul, twelve dollars are spent to degrade and drown a soul. Is it not time that the people should awake against this monster evil. We would urge against all members of this Association to touch not, handle not the unclean thing. And we earnestly and prayerfully ask all the pastors to see that the members of their churches are not drunkards. Christ said that we can do all things through Him, and your committee suggests that the order of business be suspended, and that we offer a united petition that God rid our country of this great evil.

J. M. GARRETT,
B. A. CHEATWOOD, } Com.
M. W. DODD,

The report was adopted.

25. J. B. Merrill read the following report from the committee on

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS.

Your committee, to whom was referred Associational Missions, would report as follows:

No Associational missionary work has been done in the field and it is therefore virgin soil. With a population of about 14,000 people, and a large territory, we find space and material for such work. In round numbers, about ten thousand of this population are out of the Baptist churches, although ours is much the strongest religious denonination in the county. Many of those in our own church now need to be helped to a deeper religious life, and a more consecrated service to God. We therefore recommend that a strong man be employed in this territory, whose entire time shall be given to preaching the gospel, religiously visiting from house to house, distributing Bibles, books and tracts, encouraging, instructing and helping our people to a greater appreciation of the gifts and calling of God.

J. B. MERRILL,
W. T. PRITCHARD, } Com.
G. W. ROBERTS,

The report was adopted.

26. A. A. Hurst read the following report from the committee on

LITERATURE.

Your committee beg leave to submit the following:

1. That all Baptists should read Baptist literature, such as denominational papers, especially the Alabama Baptist, periodicals, tracts, etc.

2. That all Baptists should read Baptist history, for in so doing we will learn what our brethren have had to suffer in the ages past, and it will fill our hearts with zeal for the promulgation of the doctrine which gives liberty of conscience to mankind.

3. We recommend that all our own churches use only Baptist literature in the Sunday schools.

A. A. HURST,
J. T. THROWER. } Com.
N. R. WILLIAMSON,

Report was adopted.

27. A. A. Hurst read the following report from the committee on

ORPHANS' HOME.

Your commtttee on Orphan' Home beg leave to report that we are glad to note that the Baptists of Alabama have a home established at Evergreen, Ala., with Jno. W. Stewart, manager, in which needy orphans can find shelter, food, education, and Christian teaching—a home where the little waifs may be trained up to useful lives. We recommend that our brethren inform themselves as to the work and financial needs of the Orphans' Home, and by so doing we feel sure that they will be ready and willing to aid in this good work.

A. A. HURST,
J. W. WALKER, } Com.
J. F. JOHNSON,

Report was adopted.

28. Mission reports were discussed. (See item 14.) Rev. A. E. Burns, of the State Board, interestingly and instructively discussed the subject of Missions. All reports were adopted.

29. The election of a vice moderator, a treasurer and corresponding secretary, which had been passed over, was taken up and resulted as follows: V. M. Thackerson, Vice Moderator; J. B. Merrill, Corresponding Secretary; Hugh D. Merrill, Treasurer.

30. On motion, the delegates from each church elected the member of the executive from their respective church, the result of which election is given under head of Executive Board at first of this journal.

31. J. B. Merrill read the following report from the committee on

PLACE AND PREACHING FOR NEXT ASSOCIATION.

Your committee on Place and Preaching for next Association report as follows:

Place—Heflin; Introductory Sermon—J. C. Garner, alternate, J. M. Garrett; Doctrinal Sermon—H. Allen, alternate, W. U. Almon; Missionary Sermon—J. C. Midyett, alternate, Asa Allen.

Report was adopted.

32. On motion, Clerk was instructed to have 800 copies of minutes of this Association printed and distribute them among the different churches in proportion to the amount of money sent up for minutes.

33. Preaching at 7 o'clock by Rev. T. A. Higdon.

THIRD DAY—SUNDAY MORNING.

34. Devotional exercises conducted by Rev. Geo. D. Harris.

35. Moderator announced the following Chairmen of Standing Committees: Associational Missions, J. B. Merrill; State Missions, J. M. Garrett; Home Missions, H. Allen; Foreign Missions, J. C. Midyett; Sunday Schools and Colportage, A. A. Hurst; Indigent Ministers, A. M. Turner; Orphan's Home, W. U. Almon; Christian Education, V. M. Thackerson; Religious Literature, E. G. Barker; Pastorates, W. B. Merrill; Prayer Meetings, J. C. Garner; Christian Homes, J. C. Bean; Temperance, J. F. Morgan; Church Building, J. A. Brown.

36. J. C. Midyett submitted the following report from the committee on

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your committee to whom the Sunday school work was committed would report as follows:

Of the 20 churches represented in this body, with an aggregate of 1356, only five have Sunday schools. These in the aggregate have 32 officers and teachers and 300 pupils enrolled, and an average attendance of 195. It is safe to say that not over fifty per cent of these are church members, so that there are in our bounds at least 1200 Baptist church members who forsake the assembling of themselves together Sabbath by Sabbath for the study of God's word. Brethren, this ought not so to be. We therefore recommend:

1. That pastors of our churches and the messengers of this Association stir up the church to organize support and work in the schools for the study of the Bible.

2. That this body appoint a standing committee on Sunday schools whose business it shall be to arrange for holding Sunday school rallies, and Sunday school workers' institutes, and who, in connection with the executive board of this body, shall, as far as possible, in co-operation with the individual churches of this body, attempt the organization of a Sunday school in every church and in every neglected community within our bounds, and, as far as possible, equip them with competent teachers.

3. That if this committee, together with the executive board, shall find the way open, they shall establish at Edwardsville a Sunday school workers' normal union, to which they shall urge the churches to send such of their members as shall seem suitable material for strong Sunday school teachers.

Respectfully submitted,

J. C. MIDYETT, }
I. E. HUBBARD, } Com.

After discussion by Geo. D. Harris and J. C. Midyett the report was adopted.

37. The Moderator announced the following committee to look after and establish Sunday schools: J. C. Midyett, J. C. Bean, R. H. Roberts, J. A. Brown, A. M. Turner.

38. W. B. Merrill read the following report from the committee on

FINANCE.

Received for Minutes	$19.20
Foreign Missions	11.15
Home Missions	2.40
Orphans' Home	9.00
Associational Missions	23.20
Missions, undirected	28.90
Total cash	$93.85

The report was adopted.

39. On motion, the undirected money sent up from churches was applied to Associational Missions.

40. Preaching at 11 o'clock a. m. by Rev. A. E. Burns, after which a collection for foreign missions was taken up. Amount received, $10.45.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

41. Devotional exercises, conducted by Rev. Geo. D. Harris.

42. Preaching by Rev. Geo D. Harris. Text: Romans 8:28.

43. J. C. Garner offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, That the thanks of this body be tendered the church and community of Edwardsville for their generous hospitality and splendid entertainment of this body during its sitting.

44. Adjournment, with benediction by Rev. J. M. Garrett.

Statistics of Cleburne Baptist Association, 1899.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	ADDRESS.	CLERKS.	ADDRESS.	Sabbath of Meeting.	Ordained Ministers.	Licentiates.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Dead.	Present Membership.
Ai	J. C. Garner	Ai	E. E. Myers, Jr.	Ai	3		2	1	10		6			65
Beulah	N. R. Williamson	Rosewood	J. C. Williamson	Rosewood	1	1	1	3			3			50
Bethsaida	W. J. Campbell	Belltown	W. P. Walker	Edwardsville	2		1		1		1		1	44
Bethany	T. M. Zaner	Chulafinnee	G. W. Thrower	Chulafinnee							7			32
Bethlehem	A. F. Allen	DeArmanville	E. M. Pinson	Oxford	2				1		7	1		111
Cherry Grove	A. A. Pittman	Walthall, Ga	V. M. Thackerson	Tecumseh	2			1	1		7	2		64
Camp Creek	T. A. Higdon	Tallapoosa, Ga	G. W. Roberts	Oak Level	4			3			3			140
Concord	B. F. Butler	Lecta, Ala	W. H. Gentry	Kemps Creek	2			3	8		2			52
Edwardsville	Geo. D. Harris	Piedmont	Hugh D. Merrill	Edwardsville	4	2		21	13		1		2	87
Fruithurst	P. F. Pritchard	Edwardsville	P R D. Williamson	Fruithurst	4		2							17
Harmony Grove	W. J. Newborn	Edwardsville	J. W. Bennett	Edwardsville	2	1					2			30
Hopewell	A. Willingham	Tallapoosa, Ga	C. M. Williamson	Hopewell	3	1	2	6			2		1	150
Heflin	J. A. Scott	Iron City	J. C. Bean	Heflin	1	1								67
Howles Grove	J. D. Johnson	Oak Level	G. W. Watson	Oswalt	3			21	5	1	9			75
Liberty	J. C. Garner	Ai	A. F. Thompson	Bell Mills	2	1			5			2		45
Liberty Hill	J. C. Garner	Ai	E. P. Pesnell	Bell Mills	1			8	3	1	9		1	46
Pine Grove			J. A. Brown	Bell Mills	4	2		3	6		6	2	2	109
Pilgrim's Rest	N. R. Williamson	Rosewood	Jesse Stephenson	Edwardsville				4	2		3	1		42
Shoal Creek	W. J. Newborn	Edwardsville	W. E. Halley	Shoal Creek	4	1		17	5	0	2			106
Union Grove	W. J. Newborn	Edwardsville	T. J. Dewell	Edwardsville	3	1		6	7				1	23
TOTALS						13	8	87	67	2	70	6	8	1355

CHURCHES.	For Missions.	For Minutes.	Value of Church Property.	Sunday Schools.	Pupils Enrolled.	Average Attendance.	SUPERINTENDENT.	ADDRESS.
Ai	$ 2 40	$ 1 00	$ 100 00	1	75	50	—— White	Ai
Beulah	1 65	80						
Bethsaida		50	200 00	1	25	20	J. W. Walker	Edwardsville
Bethany	1 00	75						
Bethlehem		2 00						
Cherry Grove		75	150 00					
Camp Creek		80	300 00	1	60	40	R. H. Roberts	Oak Level
Concord		90	400 00					
Edwardsville	32 15	2 00	1000 00	1	90	45	J. B. Merrill	Edwardsville
Fruithurst		25	590 00					
Harmony Grove		40						
Hopewell		1 50						
Heflin	19 00	1 50		1	50	40	J. C. Bean	Heflin
Howles Grove		1 25						
Liberty	3 60	1 00	200 00					
Liberty Hill	1 25	80	200 00					
Pine Grove	3 15	1 50	300 00					
Pilgrims Rest		50						
Shoal Creek		50						
Union Grove		50	100 00					
TOTALS	$64 20	$19 20	$3450 00	5	300	175		

Roll of Delegates.

AI.—	J. A. J. Alewine, Wm. Pritchard, W. A. White.
BEULAH.—	N. R. Williamson, G. M. Gladden, C. H. W. Cook, J. M. Kilgore.
BETHSAIDA.—	J. M. Walker, P. G. Coleman, J. W. Walker.
BETHLEHEM.—	A. F. Allen, W. P. Humphries, W. D. Hood.
BETHANY.—	J. T. Thrower, F. R. Thrower, F. M. Zaner.
CHERRY GROVE.—	V. M. Thackerson, F. H. Alsabrook, H. C. Henderson.
CAMP CREEK.	G. W. Roberts, R. H. Roberts, W. R. Hightower.
CONCORD.—	A. M. Turner, M. W. Dodd, S. S. Grizzard.
EDWARDSVILLE.—	J. B. Merrill, A. A. Hurst, T. J. Burton, W. B. Merrill, J. C. Midyett, J. M. Garrett.
FRUITHURST.—	J. A. Thompson. H. T. Williamson, W. H. Adair.
HARMONY GROVE.—	P. T. Pritchard, J. W. Baber, A. J. Baber.
HOPEWELL.—	W. F. Jacobs, W. D. Nunnelly, B. F. Butler, T. H. Martin, G. E. Willingham, J. T. Jacobs, W. C. Prestridge, C. M. Williamson.
HEFLIN.—	I. E. Hubbard, J. F. Morgan, J. C. Bean.
HOWLES GROVE.—	S. M. Denson, M. D. Whitman, S. H. Watson, G. Watson.
LIBERTY.—	H. Allen, J. M. Pirkle, L. M. Amos.
LIBERTY HILL.—	J. A. Howle, E. G. Barker, E. P. Pesnell.
PINE GROVE.—	J. A. Brown, J. D. Walker, D. I. Story, G. W. Phillips, C. A. White.
PILGRIMS REST.—	W. H. George, C. K. Harper, Wm. Harper, C. R. Ohner.
SHOAL CREEK.—	W. W. Johnson, F. M. Coleman, B. A. Cheat- W. H. Wells, N. E. Halley.
UNION GROVE.—	J. F. Johnson, T. J. Dewell, J. T. Newborn.

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